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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,950	10/22/2003	Aiko Higurashi	87900D-000515/US	4016

30593 7590 03/16/2007

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, NHAN T	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/689,950	HIGURASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nhan T. Tran	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *2/23/2007 & 10/22/2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *5-10* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *22 October 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I corresponding to Figs. 1-5, claims 1-4 in the reply filed on 2/23/2007 is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 5-10 are withdrawn from consideration.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/22/2003 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onuki et al. (US 5,231,445) in view of Kasuya (US 6,473,566 B2).

Regarding claim 1, Onuki discloses an image blurring correction apparatus (Figs. 15-19B and col. 1, lines 5-10), comprising:

an image taking optical system (lens system LNS shown in Fig. 15);

an image blurring detection device (acceleration detector ACC shown in Fig. 15) which detects an image blurring of an image formed by the image taking optical system (see col. 21, lines 3-8 and col. 11, lines 34-47);

an image blurring correction device (ILNS and IMTR shown in Fig. 15) which displaces a shooting range of the image taking optical system according to the image blurring detected by the image blurring detection device so as to correct the image blurring (see col. 11, lines 48-56);

an image blurring correction stopping device (ICPU) which, if determined that the camera is performing at least pan operation, stops (inhibits) image blurring correction by the image blurring correction device and returns (by centering) the shooting range of the image taking optical system displaced by the image blurring correction device to a reference position (a center position) (see Figs. 15-19; col. 22, lines 11-39 and col. 26, line 64 – col. 27, line 13).

Onuki further discloses the image taking optical system (LNS) as shown in Fig. 15 that can send focal length information to a camera body (col. 10, lines 51-57). However, Onuki does not explicitly discloses that the image taking optical system is

capable of changing a focal length, wherein the image blurring correction stopping device changes a speed at which the shooting range of the image taking optical system is returned to the reference position according to the focal length of the image taking optical system.

Kasuya teaches a lens system for a camera (Fig. 2) that can change a focal length by changing zoom positions of the lens (see Figs. 3 & 5 and col. 3, lines 45-49). Kasuya also teaches a practice for changing a speed of blur correction lens (17) including returning speed to a reference position (a center position) according to the focal length of the lens system (see Figs. 3 & 5; col. 10, lines 1-4 and col. 6, line 14 – col. 8, line 38). Such implementation suppresses a strange feeling to the user due to the difference in conversion ratio of focal length converting optical system in panning and/or tilting as taught by Kasuya in col. 2, lines 5-11.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the imaging system in Onuki to include the teaching of Kasuya such that the image taking optical system of a camera would be capable of changing a focal length, wherein the image blurring correction stopping device changes a speed at which the shooting range of the image taking optical system is returned to the reference position according to the focal length of the image taking optical system so as to suppresses a strange feeling to the user due to the difference in conversion ratio of focal length converting optical system in panning and/or tilting as taught by Kasuya above.

Regarding claim 2, Both Onuki and Kasuya teach that the image blurring correction device displaces the shooting range by displacing a correcting lens placed in the image taking optical system within a surface perpendicular to an optical axis of the image taking optical system (see Onuki, col. 5, lines 20-22, col. 11, lines 48-52 and Kasuya, col. 3, lines 56-60).

Regarding claim 3, it is seen in Kasuya that the image blurring correction stopping device changes the speed at which the shooting range of the image taking optical system is returned to the reference position so that the speed in a case where the focal length of the image taking optical system is short (wide side end) is lower than the speed in a case where the focal length is long (telephoto side end) as shown in Figs. 3 & 5 and col. 7, line 29 – col. 9, line 15.

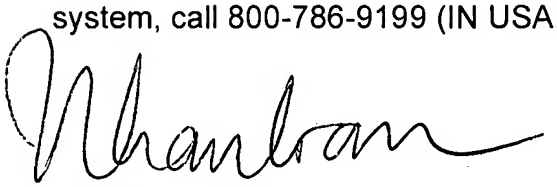
Regarding claim 4, the limitations of claim 4 are also met by the analysis of claim 2 above.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



NHAN T. TRAN
Patent Examiner